

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 97563 ACTION MEXICO 10 MAY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: LAINCC MEETING ON FORTHCOMING VANCE-BARTELS VISIT

1. LATIN AMERICAN INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS COMMITTEE (LAINCC) MET MAY 9 TO REVIEW BRIEFING MATERIAL PREPARED FOR MAY 11-13 VISIT TO MEXICO OF AMBASSADOR VANCE AND DEA ADMINISTRATOR BARTELS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA IN BROAD EFFORT MOVE GOM TO MORE EFFECTIVE EFFORT AGAINST NARCOTICS ON VARIETY OF FRONTS. ALBERTI (WHO REPRESENTED EMBASSY AT LAINCC) WILL BRING COPIES OF BRIEFING MATERIALS FOR EMBASSY STUDY AND COMMENT DIRECTLY TO VANCE AND BARTELS PRIOR TO DISCUSSION. EMBASSY COMMENTS CAN BE CONVEYED TO VISITORS ON ARRIVAL BY ALBERTI WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN WEEKEND MEETINGS.

2. LAINCC DISCUSSED U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR COMPASS TRIP.
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ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF DOLS. 560,000 WOULD COVER SPECIALIZED

COMPASS TRIP EQUIPMENT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO MEXICO (DOLS. 260,000), U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO OPERATING COSTS FOR ONE YEAR (DOLS. 140,000), APPROPRIATELY EQUIPPED FIXED WING AIRCRAFT (DOLS. 150,000), AND TRAVEL TO U.S. AND PER DIEM COSTS OF MEXICAN TRAINEES (DOLS. 10,000). IF OJEDA RECEPTIVE, WE PLAN SUGGEST EARLY STAFF LEVEL VISIT TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF AGREEMENT.

3. LAINCC ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES VANCE AND BARTELS RAISING IN GENERAL TERMS US ASSISTANCE IN SOME OR ALL OF FOLLOWING AREAS, SUBJECT TO GOM COMMITMENTS, AND STAFF STUDY OF COST AND FEASIBILITY. SOME COULD BE FUNDED FROM CURRENT YEAR MONIES IF TIME PERMITS, OR FY1975.

A. HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE. A CONTRACT IS NOW NEAR SIGNATURE WITH BELL HELICOPTER CO. TO PROVIDE ONE FULL TIME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPRESENTATIVE TO GOM FOR ONE YEAR. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE AND/OR SPARE PARTS TO KEEP BELL 212 AND BELL 206 FLEET AT OPTIMUM OPERATIONAL LEVEL, AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY PURSUANT TO SURVEY OF NEEDS BY GOM AND BELL TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES.

B. HELICOPTER PILOTS AND MECHANICS. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PILOTS AND MECHANICS TRAINING, IF NEEDED.

C. HELICOPTER OPERATIONAL SUPPORT. AGREEMENTS COVERING TRANSFER OF BELL 212'S AND BELL 206S SIGNED IN FY 1974 PROVIDE FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR FUEL AND SPARE PARTS CONSUMED IN ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, BUT TO DATE GOM REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT SUCH EXPENSES NOT RECEIVED. FUNDS OBLIGATED UNDER THESE AGREEMENTS FOR THIS PURPOSE THUS REMAIN AVAILABLE.

D. HELICOPTER REPLACEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THREE 206S PERMANENTLY DISABLED, AND THAT TWO 212'S AND ONE OTHER 206 WERE DEADLINED FOR REPAIRS FOR EXTENDED PERIODS IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. IF REPLACEMENTS NEEDED TO BRING FLEET UP TO PREVIOUSLY-AGREED STRENGTH, DISCUSSIONS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRECISE NEEDS AUTHORIZED, AND USG IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROVIDING REPLACEMENTS ON IF/AS NEEDED BASIS. BECAUSE OF LONG PROCUREMENT LEAD TIME, NEEDS SHOULD BE DETERMINED ASAP.

E. HELICOPTER MODIFICATION. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ASSISTANCE IN MODIFYING EXISTING HELICOPTERS TO IMPROVE TROOP OFF-LOADING CAPABILITIES, EXTERNAL CARGO

LIFT, AND OTHER NEW GEAR TO INCREASE VERSATILITY AND USEFULNESS. AGAIN, BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE PROCUREMENT DELAYS, OR SHOP SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, NEEDS SHOULD BE DETERMINED ASAP.

F. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ERADICATION FORCES. WE ARE PREPARED TO EXPLORE WAYS AND MEANS OF PROVIDING BETTER LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO TROOPS IN FIELD ERADICATION OF NARCOTIC PLANTS, E.G. RATIONS, SHOES, BLANKETS, ADEQUATE WATER.

G. FORWARD BASE CONCEPT. WE PLAN RAISE CONCEPT OF "FORWARD BASE" SYSTEM FOR FUTURE ERADICATION CAMPAIGNS. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO PUT OPERATIONAL BASES CLOSER TO TARGET AREAS, THUS REDUCING FLYING TIME AND FUEL COSTS, WEAR AND TEAR ON HELICOPTERS, INCREASING MOBILITY OF TROOPS THUS ENGAGED, AND ENHANCING FIELD COORDINATION AND CONTROL OF OPERATIONS. IF GOM APPROVES IN PRINCIPLE, DETAILED FIELD STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WOULD BE REQUIRED, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FACILITIES AND ANY ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED (E.G. HARD STANDS FOR HELOS, PARKING AND MAINTENANCE HANGARS, SPARE PARTS AND FUEL STORAGE, COMMUNICATIONS, SECURITY MEASURES, AND POSSIBLE BARRACKS IMPROVEMENT).

H. "HEAVY LIFT" HELICOPTER. IF "FORWARD BASE" CONCEPT ADOPTED, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER PROVISION OF ANY ADDITIONAL AIRLIFT NEEDED, OR LAND TRANSPORT FOR LOGISTICS WHERE BASE ACCESSIBILITY MAKES THIS FEASIBLE.

I. TRAINING INSTITUTE AND "PROFESSIONALIZATION" OF MFJP. WE ARE PREPARED CONSIDER ASSISTANCE IN FORM OF TRAINING AND TRAINING AIDES AND EQUIPMENT FOR TRAINING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTITUTE AND PLAN DISCUSS THIS WITH OJEDA IN ORDER UPGRADE PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITIES MFJP AGENTS ON NARCOTICS-RELATED DUTY. WE ALSO PREPARED CONSIDER WITH OJEDA OTHER WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPROVING HIS NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT MANPOWER, E.G. PER DIEM AND TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FOR INITIAL PERIOD PENDING INCORPORATION SUCH ITEMS INTO GOM BUDGET.

4. REGARDING ANY OF FOREGOING MATTERS, IN ADDITION TO OBTAINING OJEDA'S AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AS APPROPRIATE, WE WOULD ALSO SEEK TO HAVE HIM DESIGNATE MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF TO SERVE AS WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS FOR EACH OF THESE PROJECTS. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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